

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving radiostability of a ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution during autoclaving, which method comprises the steps of:
 - a) ~~provision of~~ providing a ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution, and
 - b) ~~addition of~~ adding at least one buffer based on a weak acid to the ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution.
2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the improved physical/chemical characteristic is the ability of the buffered~~ ^{18}F -FDG-solution ~~to maintain~~ maintains radiochemical purity after being autoclaved, thus rendering the solution suitable for medical applications.
3. (Canceled).
4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the buffer based on a weak acid~~[[,]]~~ is selected from the group consisting of citrate, acetate, ascorbate and combinations thereof.
5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the pH of the citrate buffer is lower than 5.5, ~~preferably between pH 2 and 5.5.~~
6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the pH of the acetate buffer is between 3.0 and 5.5.
7. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 4, wherein the pH of the ascorbate buffer is between 3.0 and 5.5.
8. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a sterile ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution by autoclaving a the ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (FDG)-solution at a temperature between 110°C and 145°C .
9. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a sterile ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution by autoclaving a ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (FDG)-solution at a temperature between 130°C and 140°C .

10. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a sterile ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution by autoclaving a ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (FDG)-solution at a temperature of 134°C .

11. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method ~~according~~ according to claim 8, wherein the autoclaving process is performed for a period of 1 to 30 minutes.

12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the autoclaving process is performed for a period of 1 to 10 minutes.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8, wherein the autoclaving process is performed for a period of 2 to 5 minutes.

14. (Withdrawn) A ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution with improved physical/chemical characteristics obtained by the method of claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A sterile ~~fluor-deoxy-glucose (FDG)-solution~~ ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution obtained by the method of claim 8.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the radiochemical purity of the buffered ^{18}F -fluor-deoxy-glucose (^{18}F -FDG)-solution is at least 95%.

17. (New) The method accordingly to claim 16, wherein the buffered ^{18}F -FDG-solution is at least about 95% eight hours after being autoclaved.

18. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the pH of the citrate buffer is between 2 and 5.5.